


To: DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA): Qualified Expert Witness

PURPOSE

This memo provides guidance and resource information for consistent application of the WICWA Qualified Expert Witness statutory provisions (s. 48.028 (2)(g) and (4)(f)).

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) mandates the testimony of Qualified Expert Witnesses (QEW) in proceedings in which the placement of an Indian child in out-of-home care or the involuntary termination of parental rights involving an Indian child is being pursued. The Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) State Advisory Board, which is composed of county, tribal, legal, and other stakeholders with expertise in tribal child welfare issues collaborated with the Department of Children and Families to develop guidance for consistent application of the WICWA Qualified Expert Witness provisions and provide critical resource information in order to assist in the implementation of §48.028 (2)(g) and (4)(f). The guidance is provided in the attached document.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

The attached Implementing Guidelines provide information on the background and purpose of the Qualified Expert Witness provisions in WICWA, defines the tiers of QEW witnesses, describes the scope of the expert witness testimony, and provides resources for qualified expert witnesses.

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MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachment: Qualified Expert Witness Implementing Guidelines
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/wicwa/qew.pdf>